

## Timely Tidbits ...

### DTW Passenger Traffic Dropped 2.4% in 2008

Passenger traffic at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) dropped 2.4% in 2008 compared to 2007, according to preliminary data issued by the Wayne County Airport Authority's Financial Planning & Analysis Division. A total of 35,135,828 passengers arrived at or departed from DTW last year – 877,650 fewer than in 2007.

WCAA officials consider the drop “modest” given major airline capacity cutbacks in the fourth quarter. For the month of December alone, passenger traffic dropped 6%, from 2.82 million in December 2007 to 2.65 million in December 2008.

Total international passenger traffic dropped by less than 1% in 2008, but may rise again due to factors like Delta Air Lines' plans to inaugurate new nonstop flights from Detroit to Rome, Italy, and Shanghai this summer.

Aircraft landings and takeoffs (operations) at the airport declined 1% (462,700) for the year.

“Given that airlines are cutting capacity worldwide in response to global economic conditions, a drop in air traffic – especially near the end of last year – was to be expected,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. “That Detroit Metro fared well compared to many other airports in terms of lost passengers would indicate to us that our market is relatively strong, and that we are well-positioned for growth when the economy turns around.”

### Holiday Extravaganza

The City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation is planning a “Holiday Extravaganza” for children in grades 2–6. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the week of February 16–20 (during schools' winter break) at the Heritage Park Activity Building in Taylor.

Cost is \$65 per child, with discounts for multiple children from the same immediate family.

Register at the Recreation office (22805 Goddard Road) weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call 734-374-3906 for info. □

## Romulus Deemed “Strong” in State of the City Address



Mayor Alan R. Lambert's annual “State of the City” address focused on Romulus's financial stability in a time of economic chaos. Photo by R. E. Kadan

The message in Mayor Alan R. Lambert's State of the City address was a reassuring one: “Our city remains strong.”

The annual presentation was given at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce business luncheon, held at the Romulus Athletic Center on January 27.

Lambert proudly compared Romulus to government at every level, from local to federal, noting that, in a time when service cutbacks and employee layoffs are the norm, Romulus has managed to avoid both.

“The financial strength of our City is, in itself, a great achievement,” he said.

Lambert made it clear that his goals do not end at merely maintaining the status quo. He cited a long list of changes and

improvements that have come about during his time as the City's chief administrator. Among them:

- advances in several areas of the City's law-enforcement and emergency-preparedness departments, including new equipment and additional personnel training paid for with nearly a million dollars in federal and state grant money;
- construction of the beautiful new Romulus Senior Center and Romulus Athletic Center – both accomplished without raising taxes; and
- adoption of “Operation Fresh Look” to improve the city's landscape.

Not surprisingly, many of Lambert's goals for the future involve bringing jobs to Romulus.

Although plans to bring a casino to Romulus have so far been unsuccessful, Lambert is still hopeful – especially following the recent presidential election.

“As most of you know, I've traveled to Washington D.C. and testified before Congressional Committees, and also gone to Lansing, holding meetings with the Governor's office, to lobby for this project ... and have been frustrated and disappointed in the lack of support [from everyone but Congressman John Dingell] ...” Lambert stated. “However, [since the election of President Obama], ... the leaders of the Hannahville Indian Tribe ... feel very confident that, with his influence and support for Michigan – and now, also, with the support of our Governor – we will see this much needed casino development come to Romulus.”

Other future goals identified by Lambert included:

- development related to the County's Aerotropolis project,
- construction of a new animal shelter, and
- working with the Obama administration to preserve business and expand into new technologies. □

## Geiss Supports 10% Pay Cut for House

State Representative Doug Geiss (D-Taylor) was among those who supported a plan to cut lawmakers' pay by 10%, saying that his vote reflects his commitment to cut State spending and reform Michigan's government.

“We all must join in the sacrifice during these tough times as we work to get Michigan back on track,” Geiss said. “Our working families living on a budget have to tighten their belts when times get tough, and the state's leaders are going to have to follow suit.”

“This is the right thing to ensure that our taxpayers' dollars are going toward the things that matter most – job creation, education, and other vital services that we know are essential to move Michigan forward,” he added.

The House adopted a resolution calling on the State Officers Compensation Commission (SOCC), the body in charge of determining legislator salaries, to decrease lawmakers' salaries by 10%. Of the nine states that have full-time Legislatures, Michigan pays its lawmakers the second-highest rate – \$79,650 a year – according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The legislation also will cut the salaries of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State by 10%. The total cuts would save at least \$1.2 million a year.

Finally, the plan urges the SOCC to ensure that elected officials' salary increases do not exceed the average increase in state employee pay.

“This is a good first step toward cutting state spending, but I know that we can and must do more,” Geiss said. “I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find smart solutions to reduce the cost of government and cut wasteful spending so we can focus on the things that matter most – creating more jobs for our workers and rebuilding our economy.” □

## Target Donates \$1,500 to Taylor PD's Child Fingerprinting Program

The City of Taylor Police Department will use a \$1,500 grant from the Taylor Target store to expand its child fingerprinting system.

Mayor Cameron G. Priebe, the Taylor City Council, and top officials in the Police Department recently recognized the store for providing the grant.

Shannon Ruhe, executive team leader at Target, said Taylor was picked to receive the grant because of Target's strong dedication to the community and the strong partnerships it has formed there.

“The Taylor Police Department has always been a great partner to their local Target,” Ruhe said. “This is the least we can do at this time to show them our sincere appreciation.” □



Mayor Cameron G. Priebe thanked Shannon Ruhe for Target's \$1,500 donation to the Child Fingerprinting System. Photo by Dave Gorgon



## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.*

*Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.*

*The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.*

\* \* \*

### Romulus DPW Workers Lauded for Excellent Work

To the Editor:

I would like to thank our City of Romulus Department of Public Works employees for doing a fantastic job!

Year after year, whenever it snows, our road crews have our main roads and subdivision streets plowed and salted within 24 hours. I have been in other cities two to three days after it snows, and their roads are still not drivable.

Our grounds crew does a great job maintaining the lawns on City property, including our cemetery.

Our water and tap crew always does a super job fixing main breaks and doing taps, no matter what the temperature – hot or cold.

Our janitors keep City buildings looking their best.

Our mechanics keep our City vehicles and equipment in tip-top shape.

The wonderful work everyone has done has not gone unnoticed, and is greatly appreciated.

Harry Crout, Councilman  
City of Romulus

### More Praise for the RAC

To the Editor:

My family and I have lived in Romulus for several years. The Romulus Athletic Center has been a great asset to our community. We have waited years for a facility

of this nature to be accessible for families to use.

Our family used to patronize the Wayne Recreation Center, The Summit of Canton, and the Southgate YMCA. We can now give our money to our own community instead of supporting surrounding communities. It is a great feeling when you walk into the RAC and see 100 to 200 people there on a weeknight, enjoying themselves and getting fit.

I believe that the Romulus Athletic Center is a state-of-the-art facility. When comparing other athletic centers, we offer more things. Our pool has a lazy river, water slides, one of the largest hot tubs, and a lap pool. Most other facilities do not have all of those items. The workout machines are easy to use and kept in great shape.

We use the RAC regularly because it gives my family quality time with each other and a place to get healthy together. It also gives our family and friends, along with our kids' friends, a place to meet up and hang out. I know other families who love the RAC just as much as we do.

A one-year membership for our family is around \$30+ a month, which is a great investment in our family's long-term health. I was paying \$29 a month for a gym membership just for myself, and that was just for workout facilities, not pool access. For \$30+ a month, my whole family can enjoy getting healthy together and having a fun-filled time in the pool area.

I understand that the RAC is making great progress, and more things are to come as far as classes and events to take place in the near future. I applaud the City Council for supporting such a great asset to the City of Romulus. I hope that you will continue to support the RAC so that families like mine and others from our community and surrounding communities can have access to an affordable, high-quality fitness center that has truly improved our quality of life.

Jennifer Frayer  
Romulus □

## New Zoning Ordinance Available for Review

The City of Taylor's rewritten Zoning Ordinance is available for review on the City's Web site, [www.cityoftaylor.com](http://www.cityoftaylor.com).

The new ordinance, which took effect February 1, incorporates elements deemed to have worked well from the former ordinance, plus recommendations from the new Master Plan and upgraded regulations, in a newly repackaged, easy-to-read document.

LSL Planning Inc., which consulted with City staff and residents on the recently adopted Master Plan, worked with staff to update the Zoning Ordinance, which was last updated in 2000 and, before that, 1988.

According to a statement issued by the City, the new ordinance was formulated to

provide tools needed to implement the Master Plan, consistent with its regulatory philosophy and long-range needs.

The revised ordinance establishes comprehensive zoning regulations for the city and provides for the administration, enforcement, and amendments of regulations in accordance with the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.

To review the ordinance online in pdf format, visit <http://www.cityoftaylor.com/files/econdev/zoningordinance09.pdf>.

Hard copies are available at the Development Services counter on the first floor of City Hall (23555 Goddard Road). The fee is \$75 for a printed copy, \$20 for a CD.

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## Dingell To Surpass Whitten as Longest-serving House Member in U.S. History

The U.S. House of Representatives Historian's office has determined that Congressman John D. Dingell (D-MI15) will become the longest serving House member in U.S. history on February 11, 2009, passing Congressman Jamie Whitten from Mississippi. An earlier report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) indicated that the Congressman would break the record on February 14, 2009, but the Historian's office and CRS reviewed the findings again and found a mistake in the count of days served by Dingell.

"I've made a couple of math mistakes in my day, so I can hardly blame the people that came up with the original number," Dingell said. "I'm just glad the House Historian's office found the error, and Congressional Research Service worked with the historians to get it right. CRS also does tremendous work, and we have great respect for their research."

The House Historians' office went through and actually counted, day by day, the time served by both members to come up with this final number.

The Deputy Historian of the House, Fred Beuttler, said about the milestone: "The United States has the second oldest constitutional government on earth. On February 11, 2009, Congressman John Dingell will begin his 19,420th day in the House of Representatives, a period of service that is almost a quarter of the whole history of Congress. John Dingell's exceptional service is a historic milestone that should be celebrated."

Congressman Dingell added, "I am not as concerned with what day I break this record as I am what we do with that day – and we will try to make it another day in which we serve the constituents of Mich-



**Congressman John D. Dingell**

igan's 15th Congressional District to the best of our abilities."

\* \* \*

As the Representative for Michigan's 15th Congressional District, John Dingell serves the people of Monroe County and parts of Washtenaw and Wayne counties, including Romulus and Taylor. He first became a congressman in 1955, at the age of 29, when he filled the seat that had been vacated by the death of his father, also named John. At the beginning of every session of Congress, Dingell introduces the national health insurance bill that his father sponsored when he represented Michigan's 15th District.

Over the last five decades, Dingell has written some of the best-known laws on the subject of health and the environment, including the 1990 Clean Air Act. He is also a longtime champion of legislation like the Children's Health Insurance Program. □

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## Willis is Chamber's Person of the Year



Reverend Arthur Willis (second from right), pastor of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church of Romulus, has been selected as the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year by POTY Committee members (from left) Dave Paul, Mark Lewkowicz, Reverend William Kren, and (not pictured) Lawrence Williams. A dinner honoring Willis and his achievements will be held this spring.

*Photo by R. E. Kadau*



## City of Taylor to Host Junior League World Series for 29th Consecutive Year

The City of Taylor will be a host city for the Junior League World Series of baseball for the 29th consecutive year. Organizers of the World Series for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-olds have received word from Stephen Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball.

The 2009 JLWS is scheduled for August 16–22 at World Series Field in Heritage Park (12111 Pardee Road). The championship game on August 12 between the winners of the United States and International pools will be televised by the ESPN family of networks.

Taylor has hosted the Junior League World Series since its inception in 1981. The event has grown to include five regional champions from the United States as well as the champions of Latin America, Europe/the Middle East/Africa, Asia-Pacific, Canada, and Mexico or Puerto Rico in alternating years.

Greg Bzura, founder and director of the World Series, said organizers have been planning the 2009 World Series since the last series ended in August. He said they are confident that they will get the nod to host the series year after year, but feel “thrilled” each time they get the official word.

“We’d be shocked if we didn’t get it, but it’s still not official until they have a board meeting and the board announces the sites of all eight World Series,” Bzura explained. “Our volunteers work hard to make sure the World Series is a memorable event for everyone that attends, especially the players, who turn in some incredible performances year after year.”

The defending champion is from Willemstad, Curacao, which defeated Hilo, Hawaii, in the world championship game, 5-2. Curacao became the first team from the Netherlands Antilles and the first team from the Caribbean to win the trophy in the 13- and 14-year-old division.

Last year, the Taylor South Little League, which hosts the series, hired a nationally experienced, Little League-approved company to install new lighting at the field, a task that was completed just prior to the start of the series. Bzura said the new lights were necessary to make it safer for players during night games – and they made a huge difference in 2008.

Series organizers are seeking grants, corporate sponsors, and other fund-raising ventures to raise money to pay for the \$120,000, energy-efficient lighting system.

The Detroit Tigers Foundation kicked off fund-raising activities with a pledge to donate \$20,000. Series volunteers have raised another \$20,000, and must raise the rest and make annual payments.

Gold-plated coins commemorating the “Light Up the Series” effort are being sold for \$20 each. Each coin is numbered and comes in a case. One side of the coin features an artist’s rendering of World Series Field and “1981,” the year the series started. The other side has a rendering of baseball field lights. Each has a grooved edge, like a quarter. Bzura said the coins will be available until all 1,000 have been sold.

To order a coin, send a check, payable to the Junior League World Series, to 22667 Maplelawn, Taylor, MI 48180. Include \$2 per coin for shipping and handling. Donations and contributions can be sent to the same address.

Orders also will be taken by phone at 734-287-8836.

For more information on the Junior League World Series in Taylor, visit the Web site: [www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries](http://www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries).

\* \* \*

### World Series Lineup

The following sites and dates for the eight World Series tournaments in Little League Baseball and Softball have been announced.

#### Baseball World Series

- Little League (ages 11–12): August 21–30 in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania
- Junior League (13–14): August 16–22 in Taylor, Michigan
- Senior League (14–16): August 16–22 in Bangor, Maine
- Big League (16–18): July 29–August 5 in Easley, South Carolina

#### Softball World Series

- Little League (ages 11–12): August 13–19 in Portland, Oregon
- Junior League (13–14): August 16–22 in Kirkland, Washington
- Senior League (14–16): August 9–15 in Lower Sussex, Delaware
- Big League (14–18): August 6–12 in Kalamazoo, Michigan

Specific times and dates for all games, including games to be televised, will be announced in June 2009.

\* \* \*

Little League Baseball and Softball is the world’s largest organized youth sports program, with more than 2.6 million players and a million adult volunteers in every U.S. state as well as in scores of other countries. □

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## Priebe Gets Greening Downriver Award



Sam Sobh (right), the new chairman of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce, congratulated Greening Downriver award recipient Cameron G. Priebe, Mayor of the City of Taylor.

Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe is the first recipient of the individual "Greening Downriver" award presented by the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Greening Downriver awards were introduced by the chamber this year to recognize those who "exemplify economic, social and ecological sustainability of the Downriver region through green practices."

Sandy Mull, vice-president of the chamber, noted, "Due to Mayor Priebe's efforts, the City of Taylor has been recognized locally, regionally, and on the state and national levels as a leading 'green' community. He was the first Wayne County mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits the city to taking deliberate action to combat global warming. ... I also have four more pages of green initiatives the Mayor is working on."

Mull presented the award to Priebe at the chamber's Fifth Annual Member Tribute, held January 12 in Wyandotte. The chamber is based in Taylor and serves the entire Downriver area.

Priebe said the honor is one that should be shared, acknowledging a team effort.

"I do appreciate that I have received this award," Mayor Priebe said, "but the fact is it wouldn't be possible without the hard work of our City employees and the members of the City Council who assist us in implementing green initiatives."

Congressman John D. Dingell, whose district includes the City of Taylor, said the Mayor's honor is "well deserved."

"I am grateful that you and your community are willing to take a major role in the preservation of our planet, and are working diligently to demonstrate the need for

environmentally responsible governments," Dingell said. "Your administration is also one of the most forward thinking in the area of effective fuel-saving programs."

Some of the more recent green initiatives led by Mayor Priebe and his administration include the following.

- Solar panels and a wind turbine have been installed at the Taylor Heritage Park Petting Farm to generate energy and provide an educational experience on renewable energy for children and adults who visit the farm.
- Taylor continued to expand its green vehicle fleet by recently adding two new hybrid vehicles. The City has also reduced the number of its vehicles overall, and operates a fleet that utilizes hydrogen, natural gas, and bio-fuels. The use of Taylor's alternative-fuel vehicles has resulted in the elimination of more than 25,000 pounds of air pollution each year.
- The use of energy-saving lighting and the dialing down of thermostats to improve efficiency of City buildings has resulted in the significant savings of more than \$500,000 over three years.
- The City has purchased land to preserve green space and create new parks. In the last three years, new green locations include those at Katherine and Goddard, Wick and Mortenvue, Ecorse and Buck, and Superior Parkway near Pardee.
- Taylor is the first Michigan city to use a road resurfacing technology that involves penetrating deep into the foundation of the existing road, recycling the materials, and mixing in additional materials such as aggregate, stone, or concrete. The result, according to City officials, is a very smooth reconstruction of the road.
- Developing butterfly gardens for student education is a cooperative effort between the City of Taylor, the Beautification Commission, and the Taylor Garden Club.

The City of Taylor has implemented numerous other green initiatives. For more information, visit [www.cityoftaylor.com](http://www.cityoftaylor.com).

\* \* \*

Additional recipients of awards from the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber were:

- J.S. Vig Construction Company of Taylor (Image Award),
- Monroe Bank & Trust Downriver (Corporate Citizen Award),
- DTE Energy (Greening Downriver Award, Large Organization or Business),
- City of Wyandotte (Greening Downriver Award, Community),
- Greg Gentner of GoldStar Financial (Community Service Award), and
- Kathy Koze of SendOutCards (Chamber Ambassador of the Year).

In other chamber business, 2009 Chamber Chairman Sam Sobh of Technical Components, Inc., received the gavel from outgoing Chairman Fred Karn of Karn Sitkins Payette Insurance Agency, Inc. □

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## RMS Donates \$300 to Animal Shelter Fund



On behalf of the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund, Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth (back) accepted a donation of \$300 from staff members and students at Romulus Middle School. The money was raised by the school's LEAGUE community-service group. Pictured are: (from left) front – Brianna Bohannon, Rashid Siddiqui, and Cody Householder; back – Chris Parker, Melika Dixon, and Betty Santo.

## EIC Assistance, Free Tax Prep Offered

The United Way for Southeastern Michigan and several other agencies are working together with area mayors to bring more dollars into their communities. The consortium is encouraging eligible residents to take the Earned Income Credit on their federal tax returns, and helping them do so by establishing Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites that offer free preparation services.

"Each year, millions of dollars of earned income tax credits for moderate- to low-income families go unclaimed in our region," said Nicole McKinney, Wayne County area director of United Way for Southeastern Michigan. "This year, a unique collaboration of area mayors was formed in response to this issue."

The Mayor's Initiative was developed to raise awareness for community residents and garner support from volunteers to help eligible families access these unclaimed dollars. Mayor Cameron G. Priebe of Taylor,

Mayor Daniel Paletko of Dearborn Heights, and Inkster City Manager Ann Capela joined forces to raise awareness in their respective communities.

Eligible residents can go to any VITA site to have their taxes prepared at no charge and receive the earned income credit. Family households earning less than \$40,000 annually are eligible. VITA sites will be operated throughout the area during tax season to provide eligible residents with free tax preparation. Participants do not have to reside in the community of the VITA site they choose. Nearby sites include the Taylor Human Services Center (26650 Eureka Road), which will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays through April 8, and the Romulus Outreach Office (6094 Second Street), open Monday afternoons through April 6. Call 313-843-2550 for an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

For eligibility information and other VITA site listings, call United Way at 2-1-1.



Getting together in Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe's office to seal the partnership between United Way for Southeastern Michigan and area mayors were (from left) Mayor Daniel Paletko of Dearborn Heights; area manager Suzanne Cleage and area director Nicole McKinney of United Way for Southeastern Michigan – Wayne County; and Mayor Priebe.

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## Youth Advisory Council Honored; Plans More Special Events in Taylor

Members of the largest Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in Taylor history are planning a variety of events with their peers in mind.

The 23-member council consists of students from Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy high schools and Trillium Academy, all located in Taylor.

The group just finished staging a successful overnight "lock-in" at the Taylor Recreation Center. The event drew 200 seventh- through twelfth-graders who enjoyed performances by local bands, sang karaoke, worked out, and played basketball, wallyball, racquetball, and video games.

Next on the youth council's agenda will be a video game tournament, to be held on Saturday, February 21, at the Taylor Sportsplex (13333 Telegraph Road). The event is still in the planning stages; for more information, call 734-374-4033.

On Sunday, March 29, a group of teenagers will attend the Detroit Pistons' basketball game vs. the Philadelphia 76ers at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are on sale at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road). For \$40, each teen will receive a ticket to the game, a ride to the Palace on a Trinity bus, an opportunity to sit in VIP seats as the home team warms up, and a Pistons duffel bag.

On Friday, April 24, the youth council will present the annual Battle of the Bands at the Heritage Park Activity Building. Last year's "battle" was a widely acclaimed success. Applications for bands interested in performing in this year's event will be available beginning March 1. For more information on the Battle of the Bands or other scheduled programs, call 734-374-4033.

## Youth Advisory Council Recognized for "Making a Difference"

Members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council were recognized by Mayor Cameron G. Priebe and other elected officials during a recent City Council meeting. Priebe praised the young people for their efforts, saying they are making a difference in Taylor.

Members of the 2008-2009 Youth Advisory Council include:

- (from Harry S. Truman High School) seniors Gina Arnold, Matt Bailey, Krystal Elmore, Elizabeth Ivezcy, Kathryn Lippard, Troy Pare, Ryan Smith, and Lindsey Talley; junior Ryan Pykor; sophomores Macey Devoy and Chloe Talley; and freshmen Danielle Alchin, Megan Bonnici, and Amanda Rauch.
- (from John F. Kennedy High School) seniors Chris Hernandez, Matt Robbins, and Amber Sharp; junior Josh Robbins; and freshman Kelsey Hernandez.
- (from Trillium Academy) junior Alexandra Ridley, sophomore John Laxton, and freshmen Kylie Alred and Michael Parks.

## Membership Applications Now Accepted

Students interested in participating on the Youth Advisory Council may submit their names to Lora Dillingham of the City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation. Dillingham, who has coordinated the youth council since its inception, serves as an advisor to the group, along with David Watkins.

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must be a Taylor resident in grade 9-12, and must have a grade point average of at least 2.5. □



Advisors Lora Dillingham and David Watkins are proud of the work being done by Youth Advisory Council members, who were recognized for "making a difference" by Mayor Cameron G. Priebe and other elected officials during a recent City Council meeting. Upcoming special events planned by the group include a video game tournament, a trip to see a Pistons game, and a Battle of the Bands. Photo by Dave Gorgon



# Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to [thelittlepaper@comcast.net](mailto:thelittlepaper@comcast.net) no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, February 13.

## Belleville

### Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space!

The final two installments of a three-part Family Reading and Science program, featuring hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult), will be held at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) according to the following schedule:

- Planet Adventures! (Saturday, February 21, 3 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Saturday, March 21, 3 p.m.).

For information about the free programs, call 734-699-3291.

### "Legacy Five" in Concert

Bethany Bible Church of Belleville will present "Legacy Five" in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27, in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$14 at the door (if available).

For information, call 734-697-7456 or visit [www.bethanybiblechurch.com](http://www.bethanybiblechurch.com).

### Books on Wheels

In an effort to provide everyone in the Belleville area with easy access to library resources, the Fred C. Fischer Library is spearheading a "Books on Wheels" program to deliver books to those unable to access the library in person.

This effort is meant to target not only senior apartment buildings, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities, but also private residences.

Any person of any age in the Belleville, Sumpter, or Van Buren area who would like library services, but is homebound, is welcome to participate. Contact Michelle at the library (734-699-3291) during business hours: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Huron Township

### CERT Class

Residents interested in Huron Township's next CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class, set for February 17, may visit [www.hurontownship-mi.gov](http://www.hurontownship-mi.gov) or [www.hurontownshipcert.com](http://www.hurontownshipcert.com) to learn more about the 30-hour/5-week training program, which will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at the Kryzsk Senior Center in Waltz.

For more information, contact Dan Spangler (734-344-0239) or Kristy Novicki (734-775-5622).

### Polish Dinner

Willow United Methodist Church (36925 Willow Road) is holding its second annual Polish Dinner on Saturday, February 21. Carry-out food will be available starting at 4:30 p.m.; sit-down service will be from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu will feature kielbasa, sauerkraut, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, rye bread, dessert, and a beverage.

Suggested donation is \$9 per adult; \$5 for children 12 and under.

For information, call Reverend Mark Zender at 313-690-7248 or 734-654-9020.

### Babysitting Class

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the YWCA, is offering a one-day babysitting class for ages 11 and up.

Topics covered will include responsibilities, home safety, accident prevention, first aid, personal safety, and infant care.

The class will be held at Renton Junior High School (31578 Huron River Drive) from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, February 23.

Cost is \$45. Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

### Card-making Classes

One-day, seasonal card-making classes will have students creating three make-and-take projects featuring ribbon, brads, eyelets, vellum, stamps, and more. Classes will be held at 7 p.m. at Huron High School (32044 Huron River Drive) on the following dates (subject to sufficient enrollment):

- March 26 – Easter, and
- May 6 – Friendship/Spring.

Cost is \$15. Advance registration is required.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

### Nursery Registration

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery is accepting enrollment for its 2009–2010 three- and four-year-old classes.

The nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization – located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street) – focuses on kindergarten readiness and social development, and offers art, music, exercise, and field trips.

For information, call Becki Graybeal at 734-299-3036.

## Romulus

### Blood Drive

The Romulus Senior Center's annual blood drive will be held at the Center (36525 Bibbins Street) on Monday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are strongly encouraged, although walk-ins are also welcome.

For information, call 734-955-4120.

### Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D. Estleman (February 9),
- *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts (March 9),
- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

### Mother-Son Sweetheart Dance

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation will hold its annual Mother/Son Sweetheart Dance on Wednesday, February 11, in the cafeteria at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

For information, including prices and time, call 734-941-8665.

### Roast Beef Dinner

The next in a series of roast beef dinners hosted by Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will be held on Saturday, February 14, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The dinners – open to all – include roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, and beverage. Takeouts and deliveries to the Romulus area are available.

Succeeding dinners will be held the second Saturday of each month.

Suggested donation is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6 to 12.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

### Pet Inoculations Fair

The City of Romulus will host its annual Pet Inoculation Fair at the Department of Public Works building (12600 Wayne Road) on Saturday, February 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Special discounts will be offered on license fees, microchip implantation, and nail-trimming services, as well as various tests and vaccinations.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund by Dr. John Herman, Robin from Fluff 'n' Puff, and Sue from Cruisin' Clippers.

For information, call 734-942-7579.

### Beyond Earth

The final two installments of a three-part Family Reading and Science program, featuring hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult),

will be held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) according to the following schedule:

Scheduled topics include:

- Planet Adventures! (Monday, February 23, 6 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Monday, March 23, 6 p.m.).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

### Soul Food & Jazz Dinner

Romulus Middle School (37300 Wick Road), in cooperation with the Romulus Community Schools community, will host a Soul Food & Jazz Dinner at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25.

This year's event will feature performances by the Romulus High School Jazz Band and various local church groups, as well as dinner served by local dignitaries.

For ticket sales and other information, call Reverend Rita Talley at the Middle School (734-532-1703).

## Taylor

### Recreation Program Will Keep Students Busy During Winter Break

Students in grades two through six can take part in a "Holiday Extravaganza" to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. February 16–20 at the Heritage Park Activity Building in Taylor.

The annual weeklong program, provided by the City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation, offers a wide variety of activities.

Students will explore the history of holidays that are celebrated in America: President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and Halloween, plus each child's birthday. The week's activities will include field trips to The Henry Ford Museum, an indoor water park, The Parade Company, and the movies. The week will also be filled with recreational activities, arts and crafts, and much more.

Cost is \$65 per child, although discounts are available for multiple members of the same immediate family. Register at the Recreation office (22805 Goddard Road) weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information, call 734-374-3906.

### Craft Time at the Library

Children in grades K–3 are invited to take part in the Taylor Community Library's monthly Craft Time program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Upcoming programs include:

- St. Patrick's Day (February 25), and
- Easter (March 25).

Each Wednesday program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Although there is no fee to attend, space is limited, and advance registration is required.

For information, call 734-287-4840.



## "Big Band Ball" Benefits Taylor Arts

Tickets are on sale now for the third annual "Big Band Ball" to be held on Saturday, March 21, at the Grecian Center (16300 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate).

The event, a benefit for the Taylor Friends of the Arts, is presented by the Taylor Cultural Arts Commission.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be open from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

The audience will enjoy a dinner performance by Girls' Night Out from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dancing to the big band music of Larry Huntington and The Skyliners is scheduled for 7:30 to 11 p.m.

A silent auction is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m.

Tickets – available in advance only – are \$45 each or \$80 per couple. To charge tickets by phone, call 734-287-6318.

"The Big Band Ball has been a huge success the last two years," said Debbie Hamilton of the Friends of the Arts and the Taylor Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation. "We moved to a larger venue last year because of the demand – and it was a great move. The beautiful Grecian

Center is a wonderful place for this annual fund-raiser."

The goal of the Taylor Cultural Arts Commission is to enhance Taylor and the Downriver area by promoting the arts. Hamilton said proceeds will benefit various art-related ventures.

"As a commission, we are proud of our accomplishments over the last four years," she said. "We've established a scholarship fund for graduating seniors going into the arts, provided several theatrical performances to sold-out crowds, commissioned a beautiful sculpture by Taylor artist Keith Coleman that was installed at the Taylor Petting Farm, given viable opportunities for musicians and actors to perform, and given support to our crown jewel, Taylor Ballet Americana."

"We truly are looking forward to the growth of cultural arts in the City of Taylor over the next several years."

For more information, call the Recreation Department (734-374-3906) or visit [www.TaylorArts.org](http://www.TaylorArts.org).

Taylor Friends of the Arts is a 501c3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

## Cory Stories



Students at Cory Elementary in Romulus celebrated the upcoming 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth by creating birthday cards for him. Teachers connected the activity to lessons that dealt with the inauguration of President Obama. The cards have been sent to the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for possible display in the Old State Capitol Building. Pictured with their cards are: (left to right) Jelani Shinn, Stefan Reynolds, Kaitlyn Henich, Marcel Welch, and Destinee Hayes.

## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

### ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In accordance with Section 763.84 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), or the "Asbestos in Schools Rule," Romulus Community Schools is notifying employees and building occupants, or their legal guardians, of activities conducted within the past school year involving the asbestos inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and periodic surveillance activities, that are planned or in progress at School District facilities.

During the upcoming School Year (the "2008–2009 School Year" – September 2008 through August 2009), Romulus Community Schools has planned the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials throughout the School District:

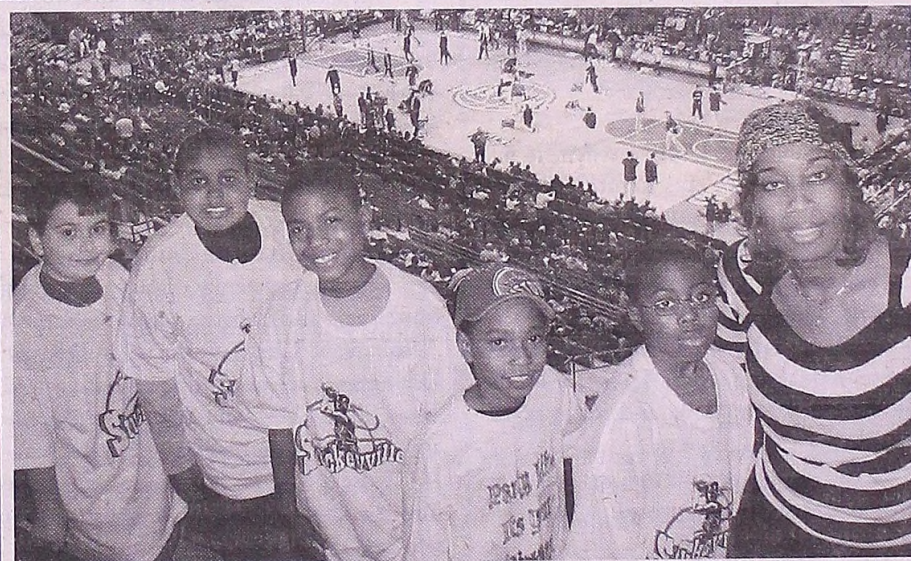
- **Six-month Periodic Surveillances:** Six-month periodic surveillances will be completed every six months and continue on a regular six-month schedule (next scheduled round: approximately May 2009).
- **Three-year Reinspections:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each school district reinspect all known and assumed asbestos-containing materials once every three years. The three-year reinspection activities for all Romulus Community Schools' facilities were completed in November 2007. The next three-year reinspection is therefore due in November 2010.
- **Asbestos Abatement Projects – Scheduled:** As of the beginning of the School Year, there are no asbestos abatement projects scheduled.

During the previous twelve months (the "2007–2008 School Year" – September 2007 through August 2008), Romulus Community Schools completed the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials throughout the School District:

- **Six-month Periodic Surveillances:** Six-month periodic surveillance activities were completed in November 2007 and May 2008.
- **Asbestos Abatement Projects – Completed:** No asbestos abatement projects were conducted during the 2007–2008 School Year.

AHERA Management Plans are available for review in each school building office or at the Administration Building (36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan). Summaries for all of the asbestos abatement projects conducted prior to the 2007–2008 School Year are located in the AHERA Management Plans, while complete documentation is maintained in the Administration Building.

Questions regarding the asbestos program for Romulus Community Schools may be addressed to Mr. Jeff Heydanek, healthAIR, inc., at 248-426-0165 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Cory fourth-graders who attend the after-school "Boys Involved in High-Interest Reading" program were treated to a night at the Palace of Auburn Hills to watch the Detroit Pistons take on the Charlotte Bobcats. Rodney Stuckey, Pistons guard, donated game tickets and T-shirts to each of the students in the program. Pictured enjoying the game are: (left to right) Zachary Ward, Brian Pope, JaVonte Jones, Clayton Carter, Deviontae Jones, and Andrea Maxey (reteacher).



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## Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

### Romulus

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#### AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Romulus Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday through April 15. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information.

#### Celebrate Fat Tuesday!

The Romulus Senior Center will be serving paczki and hot coffee from 9 to 11 a.m. on February 24.

Please call to preregister so there will be enough goodies for everyone.

#### Valentine Luncheon

The Romulus Senior Center's Valentine Luncheon – set for noon on Tuesday, February 24 – will feature a menu of meatballs, shepherd's pie, and steamed veggies. Highlights of the event will include live music and dancing.

Cost is \$3.50 per person. Advance registration is required.

#### Culinary Class

Ziti, kale, and a surprise dessert will be on the menu for this month's culinary class, which will be held on Friday, February 13, at 11:30 a.m.

Advance registration is required.

#### Jewelry Class

The multitalented Maria Lambert's next jewelry class is set for 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 19. Come and make bracelets, earrings, and more!

Cost is \$10 per person for supplies. Advance registration required.

#### Free Health Screening

The Medical Team will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, February 23, to administer free health screenings to seniors (age 60 and older) who reside in southern and western Wayne County.

Tests will include vision, hearing, vital signs, CBC, blood cholesterol, blood sugar, urinalysis, and fecal occult blood.

Those planning to participate should bring their physician's name, relevant health history information, a list of current medications, and (in order to receive a flu vaccination) proof of Medicare insurance.

Call for more information.

#### Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, at the Center.

Both walk-ins and call-ins are welcome.

#### Blood Drive

The Romulus Senior Center's annual blood drive will be held on Monday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

#### AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Ford each Thursday beginning February 5 and continuing through April 9. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information.

#### Homestead Tax Help

Volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will be on hand each Monday *by appointment only* to help seniors (age 65 and older) and disabled individuals prepare their Homestead Property Tax forms.

Call the Center for an appointment.

#### Sweetheart Dance

The Ford Senior Center is planning a Sweetheart Dance on Monday, February 23, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tickets (\$7 each) must be purchased by Tuesday, February 17.

#### "An Afternoon at the Movies"

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and dessert, then check out *The Pink Panther 2* (with free popcorn and beverages) on Tuesday, February 17. Bus departs from the Center at 10:15 a.m. and returns at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 includes transportation, lunch, and admission. Advance registration is required.

#### National Acrobats of China

Enjoy a spectacular display of juggling, tumbling, and acrobatics when the National Acrobats of China perform at Detroit's Orchestra Hall on Sunday, February 22. The Center's bus will depart at 12:30 p.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m.

Cost is \$34 for admission; lunch (before the show) is extra. Preregistration is required.

#### You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

On Friday, March 13, the Ford Senior Center bus will travel to Little Daddy's for dinner, followed by a Young Peoples' Theatre performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Corner Playhouse in Southgate. The bus will depart from the Center at 5 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for admission to the show; dinner is extra. Preregistration is required.

#### "Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

#### Watercolor Workshops

A drop-in Watercolor Workshop is held at the Center each Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost per class is \$7 plus supplies (bring your own or pay an extra \$1.50).

#### Check Your Blood Pressure

The Ford Senior Center has tentatively scheduled free blood-pressure checks from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on the following dates: Tuesday, February 10; Thursday, February 19; and Thursday, February 26. □

**WARNING! – If you're retired, soon to be retired, or changing jobs, don't even THINK about making decisions about your money or your early retirement package without reading this FREE report that reveals the 11 deadliest mistakes unsuspecting retirees could make!**

You only get one chance to retire. There is no room for even the slightest error with your retirement dollars. If you are making any one or more of the 11 biggest mistakes that all retirees make, you could end up outliving your retirement income!

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All retirees, and those near retirement, are urged to get this complimentary report that keeps the money you have

worked so hard to earn from being wiped out from even the smallest mistake!

**New tax laws could cost you a fortune if you don't know what you're doing!**

Plus, since Congress just passed the most complicated tax law in the past decade, if you don't know what you should know, you could make big mistakes and overpay your taxes needlessly! Find out how to protect yourself from deadly tax traps! Call NOW before it's too late ... and you find yourself flat broke! Don't procrastinate! Call NOW to see if you're like millions of retirees who make so many mistakes with their retirement dollars and financial security!

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## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

**the little paper**  
P.O. Box 74038  
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Paternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

## ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_  
Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_  
Place \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Reception \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

## Obituary

## Cranford A. Wehunt

Cranford A. Wehunt of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2009, at the age of 83.

The son of the late Monroe and Emma Lee (Teague) Wehunt was born in Haleyville, Alabama, on Thursday, March 19, 1925.

Cranford, a U.S. Navy veteran, retired from Great Lakes Steel in 1983 after 35 years of service. Upon his retirement, he relocated to Alabama, but returned to Romulus in 2003. His interests included bowling, deer hunting, fishing, building, gardening, and his fish pond.

Surviving Cranford are his wife, Nellie

R. (Elliott) Wehunt; his son, Gary C. Wehunt (Greenbrier, TN); his daughter, Linda (Michael) Boyle (Romulus); 4 grandchildren; and a half-brother, Frank White (CA). Among those who preceded him in passing were his brother, Carmen, and his half-sister, Imogene.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, February 4, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Marvin Hawbaker (Calvary Church, Romulus) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial contributions to any charitable organization would be greatly appreciated by the family. □

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Romulus resident Rachel Arthur, who made the Dean's List at Cedarville (Ohio) University for the 2008 fall semester.

Arthur, a freshman majoring in organizational communication, is the daughter of Ronald and Selina Arthur.

## Business Luncheon

David B. Harwood, Nuclear Development director for Detroit Edison, will be a guest speaker at the Chamber's Business Luncheon on Tuesday, February 17, at the Detroit Metro Airport Marriott Hotel (30559 Flynn Drive, Romulus).

Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for nonmembers. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is at noon. For reservations, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail [info@romuluschamber.com](mailto:info@romuluschamber.com).

## Violence vs. Music

By Don Davis

Music brings us together,  
Violence separates us from each other,  
Violent music causes drama,  
Non-violent music solves problems,  
When it involves hip-hop,  
Hip-hop is never the same when artists don't get along with each other,  
But what they should do is embrace one another,  
Violence in music brings trouble,  
Good music is our life,  
Violence is our death,  
But together we all can live in peace!

*Editor's note: Don Davis, a Romulus High School senior, wrote the above poem as part of his senior project on the social issue of violence in music. He hopes that its message will have a positive impact on all who read it.*

## APA Proud To March in Dr. King's Honor



Members of the American Progressive Association – including (front, from right) Romulus City Councilman Harry Crout, APA trustee Roy Williams, and Romulus Community Schools Board of Education trustee Sandy Crout – were proud to take part in the city's annual unity walk on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



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